

**Budget and Finance Committee
Regular Meeting
September 26, 2002 - 9:00 a.m.
Gordon Dickie Building**

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Committee Chairperson Joan Delabreau called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Those present: Anthony Waupochick, Sarah Skubitz, Linda Zablocki, Kathy Kaquatosh and Dan Maine. Also present were, Ann Marie Johnson, Devin Wynos, Kristi Arnold, Patti Peterman and Ben Kaquatosh.

2. Moment of Silence - A moment of silence was observed.

3. Federal Appropriations & Continued Resolutions

Committee discussed the fact that Congress still hasn't passed the budget appropriations or given any continuing resolutions.

Committee extensively went over the list of programs that are Federally funded and developed a priority list for those programs.

Kathy Kaquatosh brought up the Maehnowesekiyah Day Care issue and informed the committee that the employees were laid off and cash outs of their time were made. Kathy stated that one person cashed out \$4,000.00 and committee was concerned that the cash outs are defeating the purpose. The committee was also concerned that the employees aren't being made aware of their benefits and options. Because that person cashed out at \$4,000, she most likely will not get unemployment until the unemployment people determine how many weeks that would last her. Committee was also concerned because no one ever said that the employees lay off was permanent. At this point no one is really sure what will happen to the day care and if the employees are called back they will not have any time banked.

Committee agreed that Human Resources should have told the employees about their benefits and explained the provisions with unemployment when they were laid off. If any more lays offs occur committee wants to make sure that Human Resources explains everything to the employees.

Committee went back to looking at the list of departments trying to see where possible lay offs could occur. Committee wanted to be careful of not cutting too many people and trying not to cut people who really need the health insurance.

One department committee talked about was the General Assistance Program (GAP) and wondered if that department could go from 2 staff members down to one. One of the committee members stated that the Legislature imposed restrictions on GAP before to keep costs down. The restrictions were something like, no new members will be allowed on the program and people can only be on the program for a certain amount of months.

Motion made by Kathy Kaquatosh to request that the Menominee Tribal Legislature re-imposes the restrictions on the General Assistance Program (GAP). Seconded by Anthony Waupochick Sr. All those in favor signify by saying aye, 5-for, 0-opposed, 0-absent. Motion carried.

Committee went into lengthy discussion regarding Tribal News and why they aren't bringing in revenue and why they are doing accounts receivable.

Committee went back to talking about the priority list and benefits if employees need to be laid off. Committee would like to see the lay offs occur after October 1st, because that way they will still have insurance for the rest of the month whereas if they were laid off September 30 their insurance would stop then. Committee would like to see if there is any way insurance benefits could remain while the lay offs were in affect.

Some of the recommendations the committee made in case more budget cuts needed to be done were;

- o Ask employees for temporary voluntary lay off.

- Reduce hours to 32 hours per week (that way benefits would remain).
- Have employees alternate weeks worked.
- Temporarily lay off clerical staff.

Motion made by Anthony Waupochick Sr. that we go through the priority ranking 1 through 8 for federal priority programs and that ALL departments look at ways to reduce cost either through reduction in hours, voluntary lay offs, alternate week lay offs and any clerical layoffs and meet with Ben to determine what their benefits are. The same recommendations apply to the federal non-priority and tribal non-priority. For the federal non-priority and tribal non-priority if they do not have appropriations or continuing resolutions and they are not critical services the employees be put on temporary lay off. Seconded by Kathy Kaquatosh. All those in favor signify by saying aye, 5-for, 0-opposed, 0-absent. Motion carried.

4. Fiscal Year 2003 Budget

No action taken at this time.

5. Other Business

No other business discussed.

6. Adjournment

Motion made by Sarah Skubitz to adjourn. Seconded by Anthony Waupochick Sr. All those in favor signify by saying aye, 5-for, 0-opposed, 0-absent. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at Noon.

Respectfully Submitted by
Legislative Staff Services